

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

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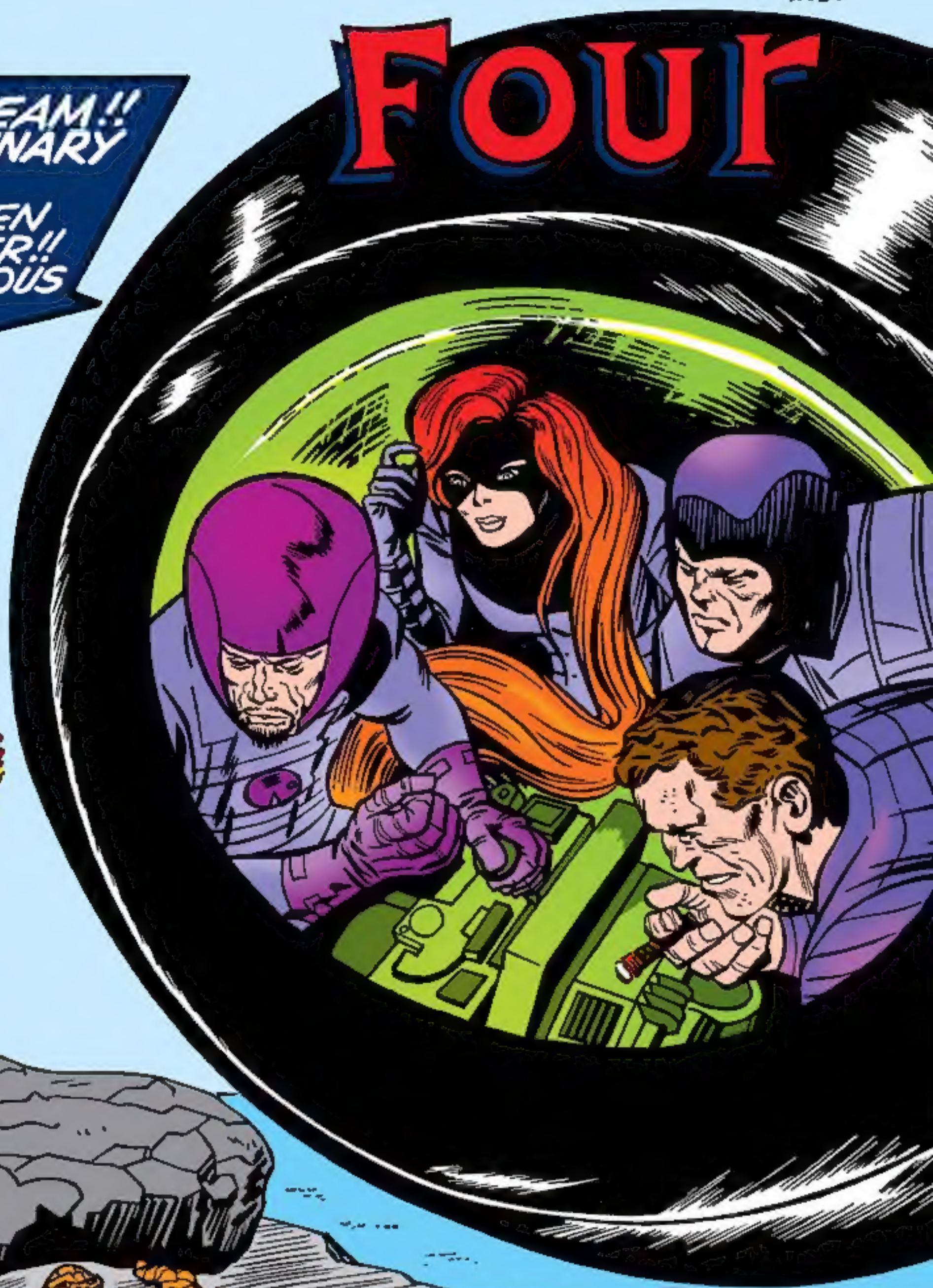
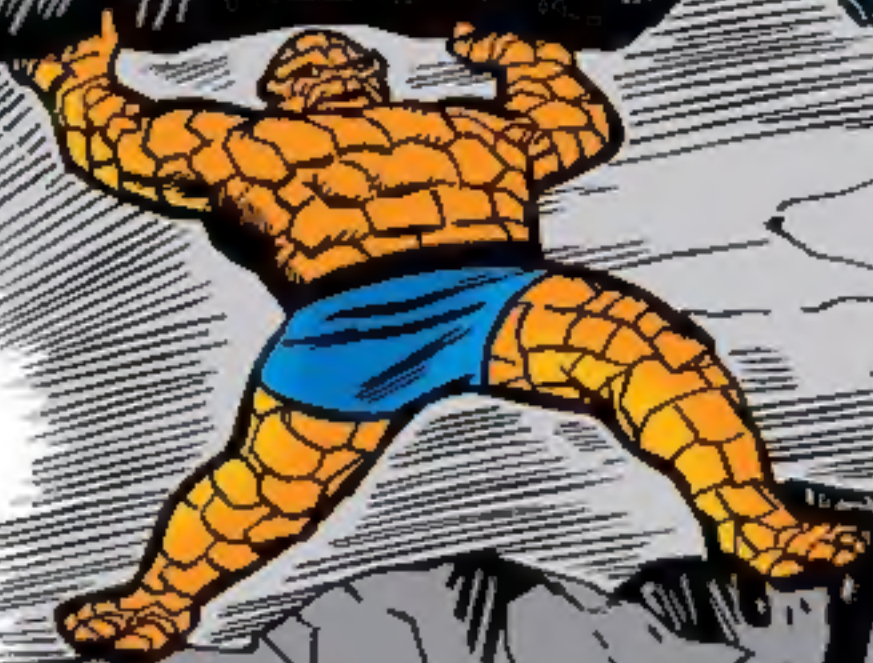
IND.

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

NOT A DREAM!!
NOT AN IMAGINARY
TALE!!
IT HAD TO HAPPEN
SOONER OR LATER!!
AT LAST, THE FABULOUS
FF ARE...

"DEFEATED
BY THE
FRIGHTFUL
FOUR!"

FOUR



THE FABULOUS **F.F.**, INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, ARE ...

"DEFEATED BY THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!"

NO, JOLLY JACK KIRBY HASN'T FINALLY POPPED HIS CORK! THERE REALLY IS AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS SCENE! REED, BEN, AND JOHNNY ARE STANDING ON A HUGE, OVERSIZED BLOWUP OF A PHOTO WHICH THEIR AUTOMATIC CAMERAS TOOK WHILE THEY WERE RETURNING TO EARTH FROM THE SKRULL GALAXY (SEE ISSUE #37). BUT, IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT IT'S A PHOTO OF --- WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

INTRODUCING: ONE OF THE MOST UNPREDICTABLE VILLAINS OF ALL TIME! WAIT TILL YOU SEE:
THE TRAPSTER!

NEXT TIME YOU SPEND OUR DOUGH GETTIN' A PICTURE ENLARGED MAKE SURE IT'S A PIC OF SOME **BLONDE**, WILL YA?

THIS REALLY TAKES THE CAKE! YOUR AUTOMATIC CAMERA GIVES US A PHOTO, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!

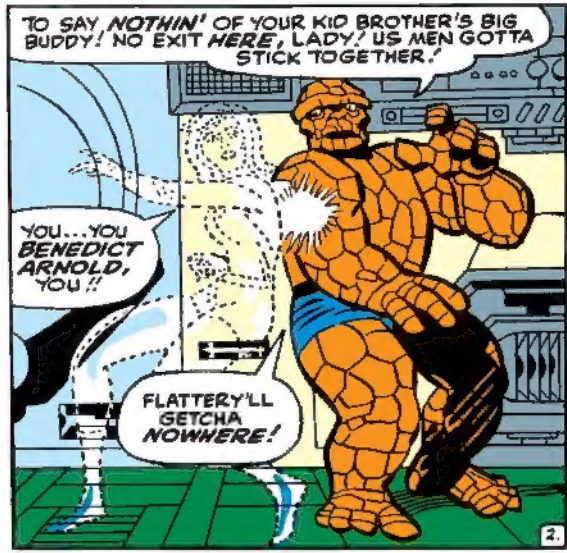
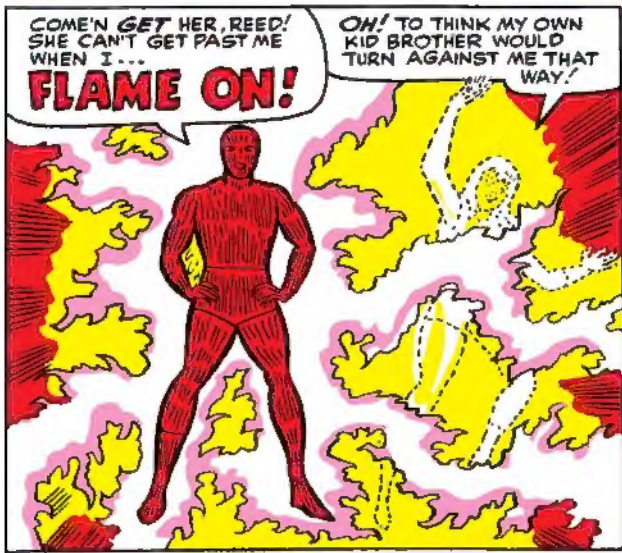
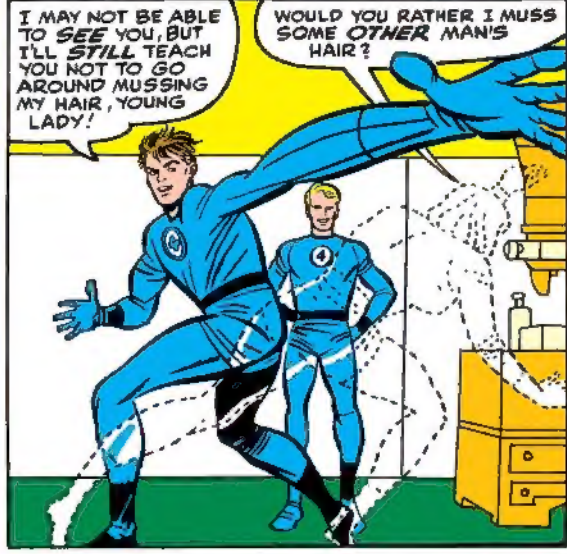
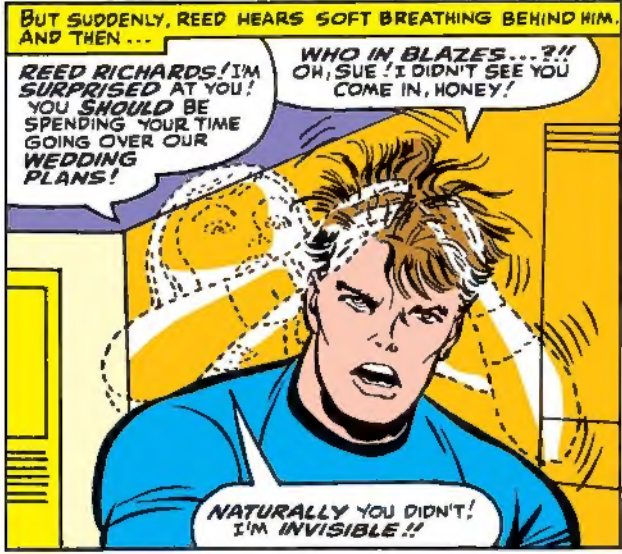
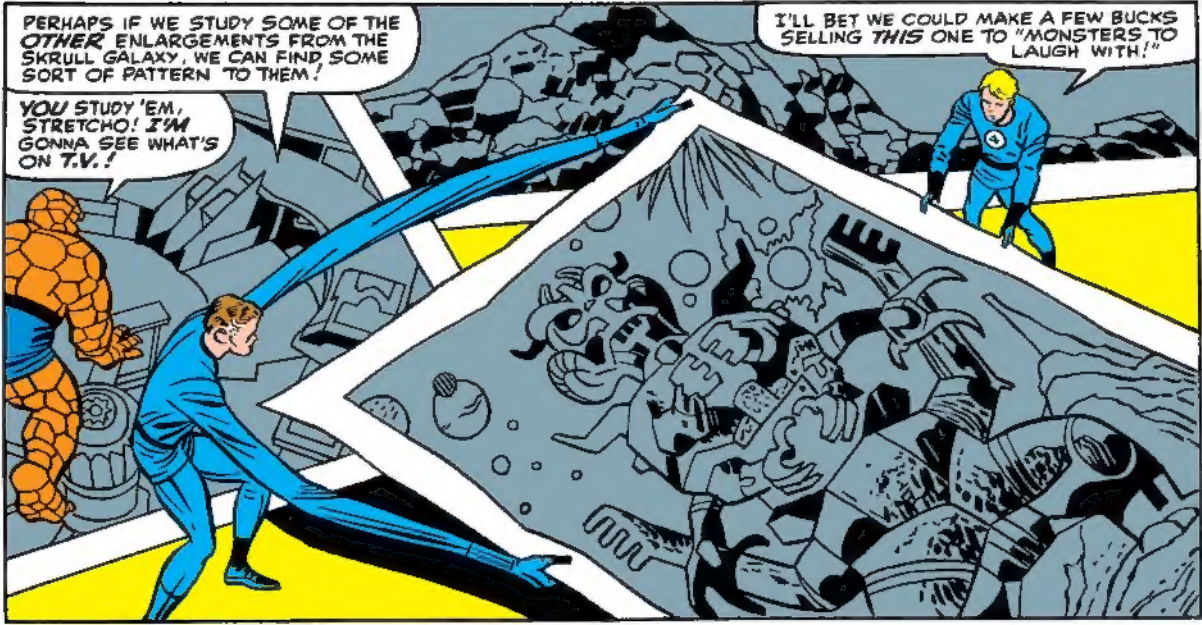
I SUSPECT IT'S A SECTION OF ONE OF THE SKRULLS' POWER PLANTS, BUT I CAN'T BE CERTAIN!

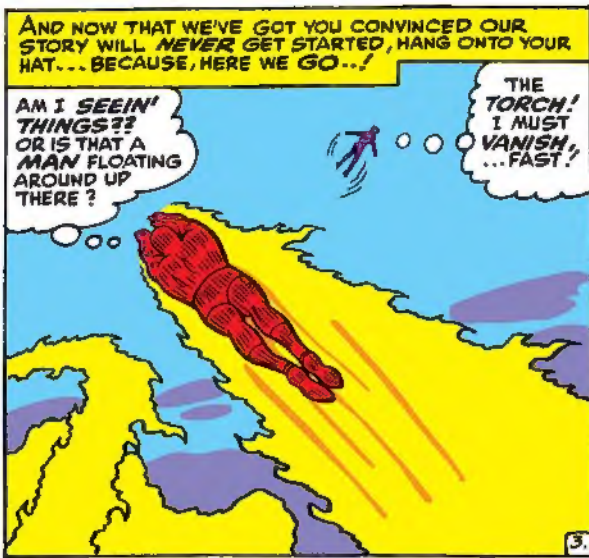
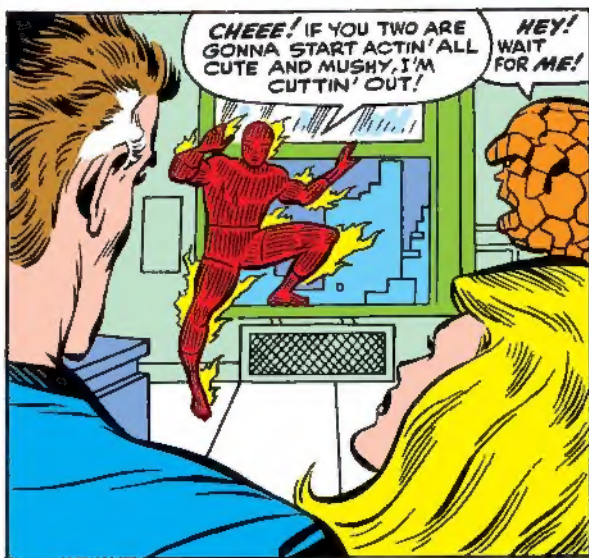
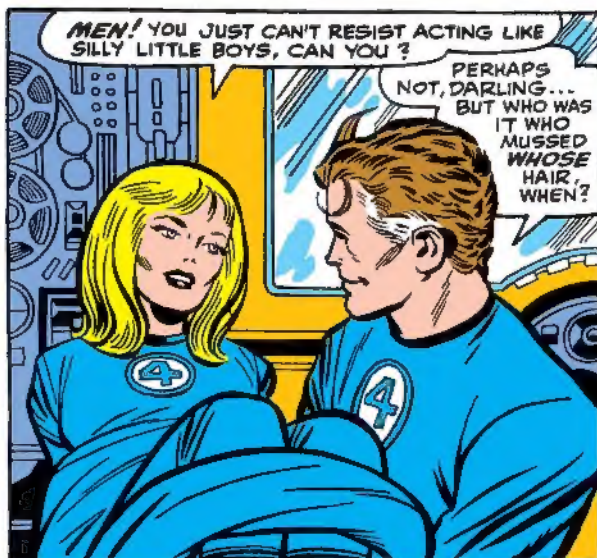
THE GANG IN THE BULLPEN FEEL THAT THIS STARTLING EPIC IS ONE OF THE SUPREME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS! WE HOPE YOU WILL AGREE!

PRESENTED BY THE MOST HONORED NAMES IN ALL OF COMICDOM:

STAN LEE,
WRITER,
JACK KIRBY,
ILLUSTRATOR.

CHIC STONE, **S. ROSEN**
INKER LETTERER

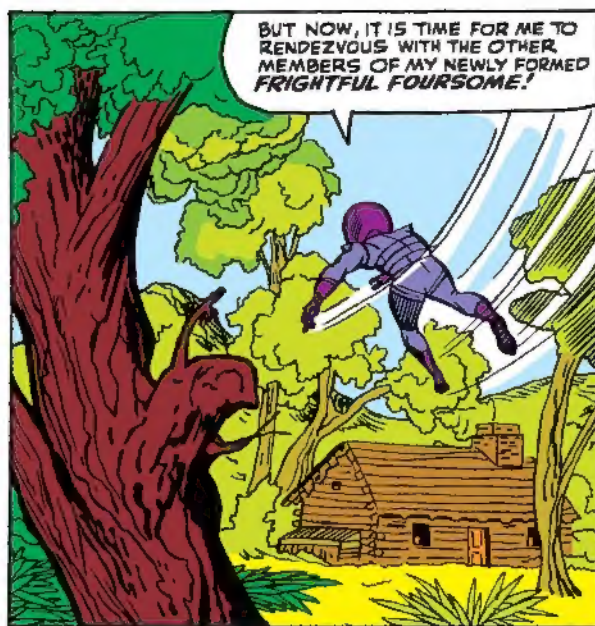




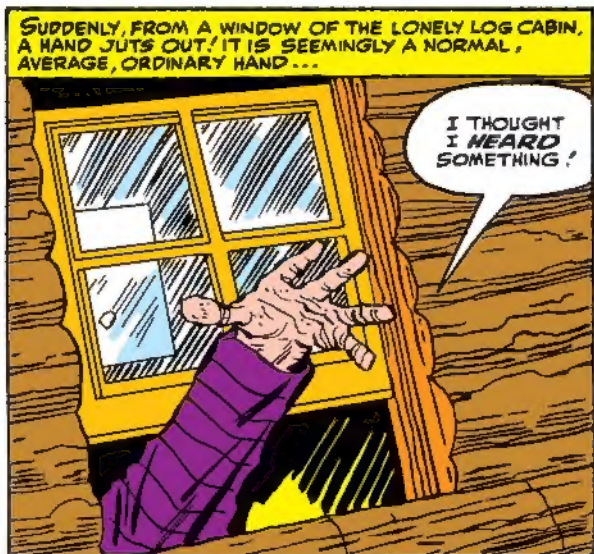


WHEN NEXT HE MEETS THE WINGLESS WIZARD IT MUST BE AT A TIME AND PLACE OF MY OWN CHOOSING!

HAH! MY ANTI-GRAV POWER ENABLES ME TO SOAR INTO THE SKY SO RAPIDLY THAT THE FIERY JUVENILE WILL THINK HE WAS MERELY SEEING THINGS!

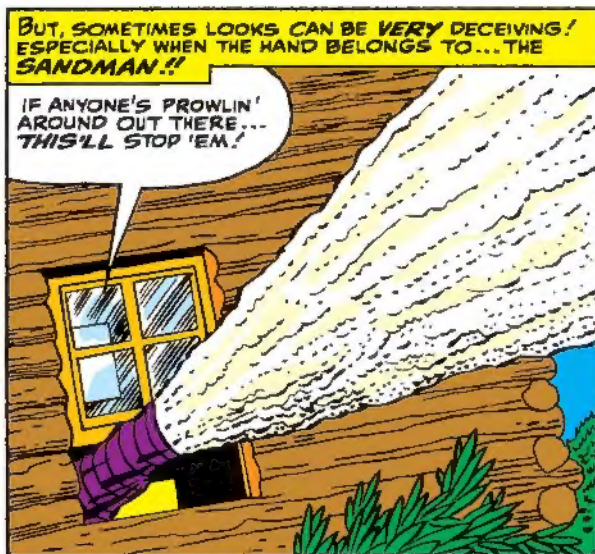


BUT NOW, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF MY NEWLY FORMED FRIGHTFUL FOURSOME!



SUDDENLY, FROM A WINDOW OF THE LONELY LOG CABIN, A HAND JUTS OUT! IT IS SEEMINGLY A NORMAL, AVERAGE, ORDINARY HAND...

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!



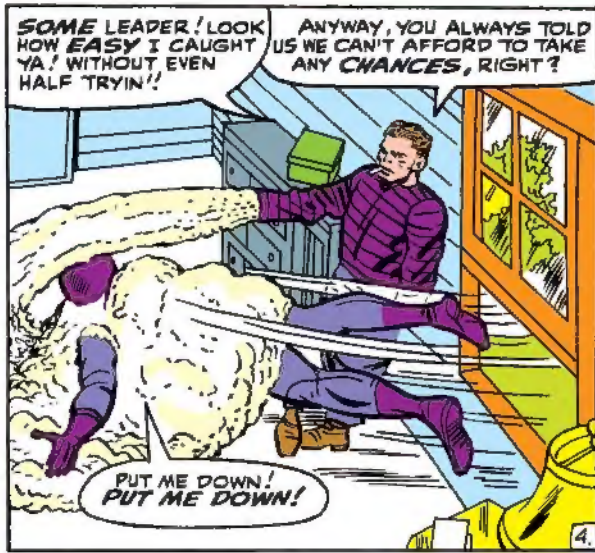
BUT, SOMETIMES LOOKS CAN BE VERY DECEIVING! ESPECIALLY WHEN THE HAND BELONGS TO... THE SANDMAN!!

IF ANYONE'S PROWLIN' AROUND OUT THERE... THIS'LL STOP 'EM!



SANDMAN! YOU CARELESS FOOL! STOP IT! IT IS I!!

IT'S YOUR LEADER... THE WINGLESS WIZARD!



SOME LEADER! LOOK HOW EASY I CAUGHT YA! WITHOUT EVEN HALF TRYIN'!

ANYWAY, YOU ALWAYS TOLD US WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES, RIGHT?

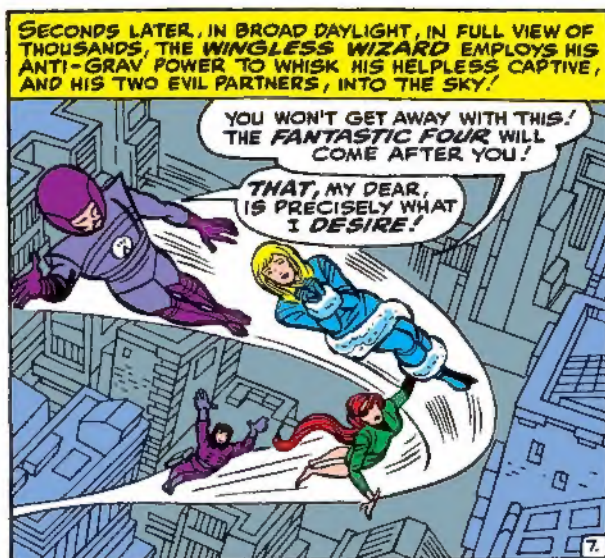
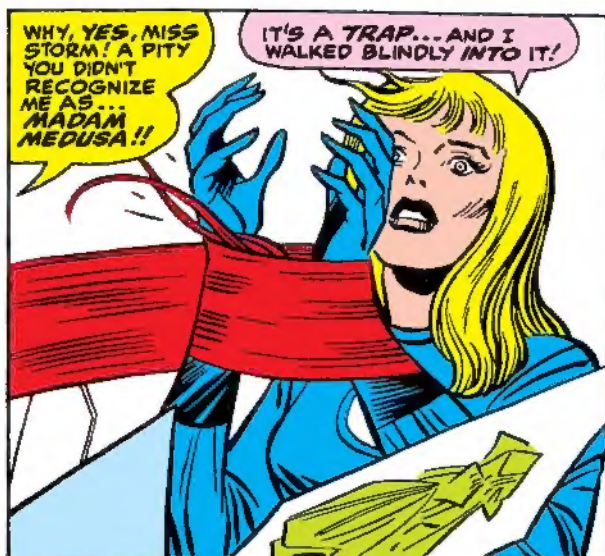
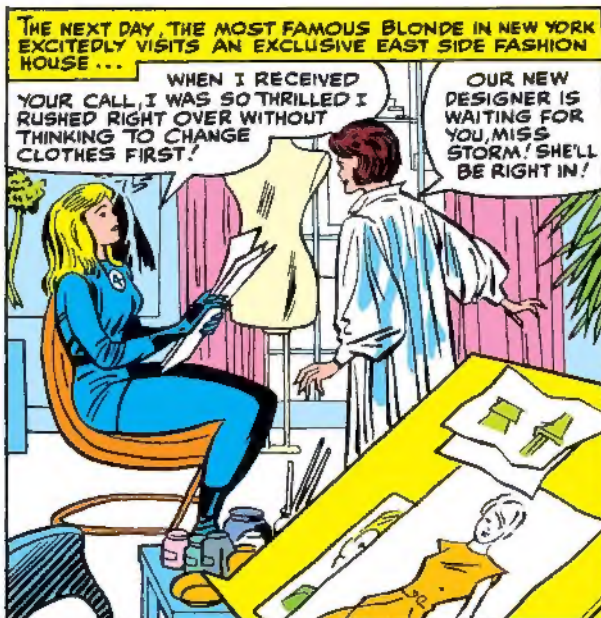
PUT ME DOWN! PUT ME DOWN!

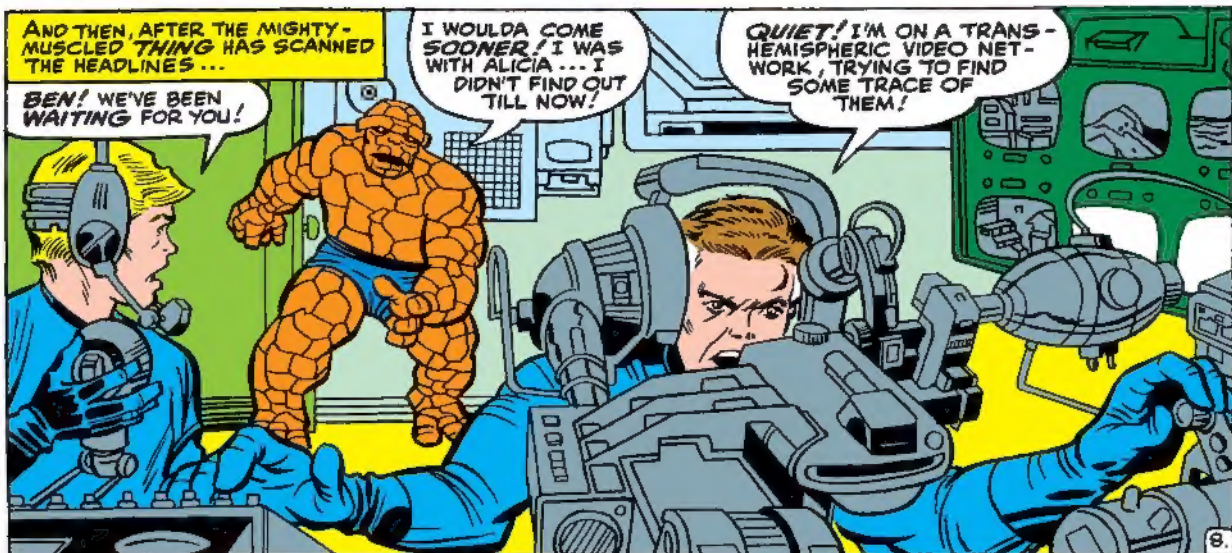
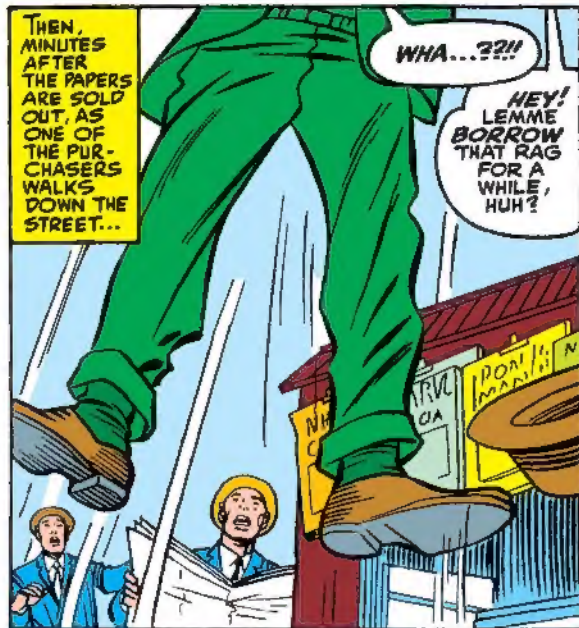


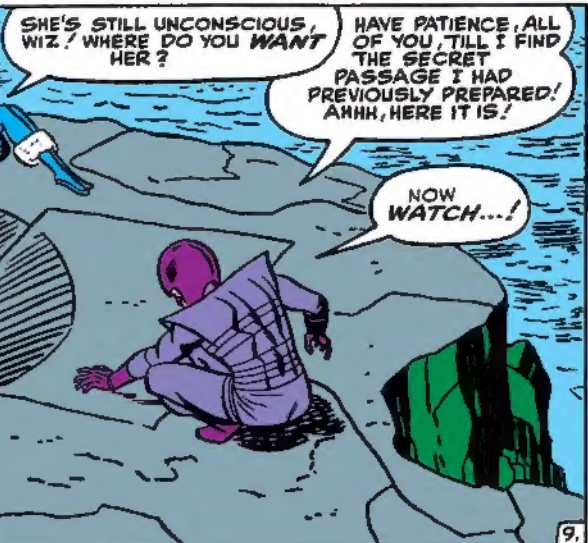
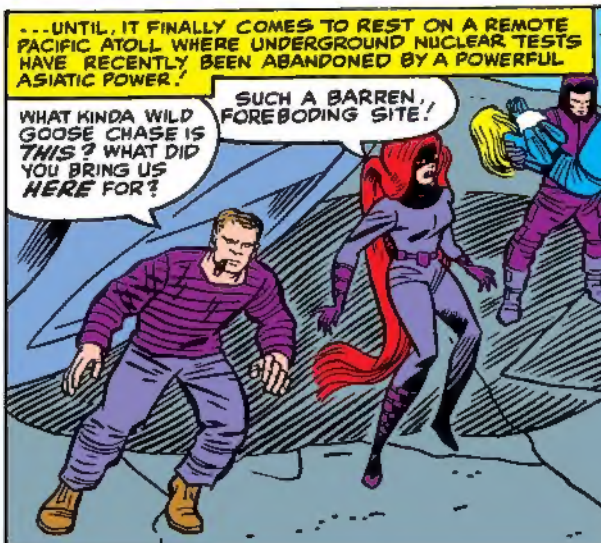
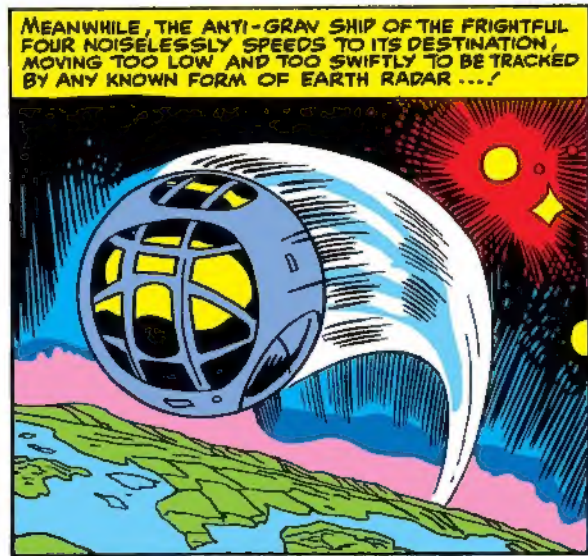
IT IS TIME I DEMONSTRATE,
ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT
ONLY *I* AM STRONG ENOUGH
TO HEAD THE *FRIGHTFUL
FOUR* !!

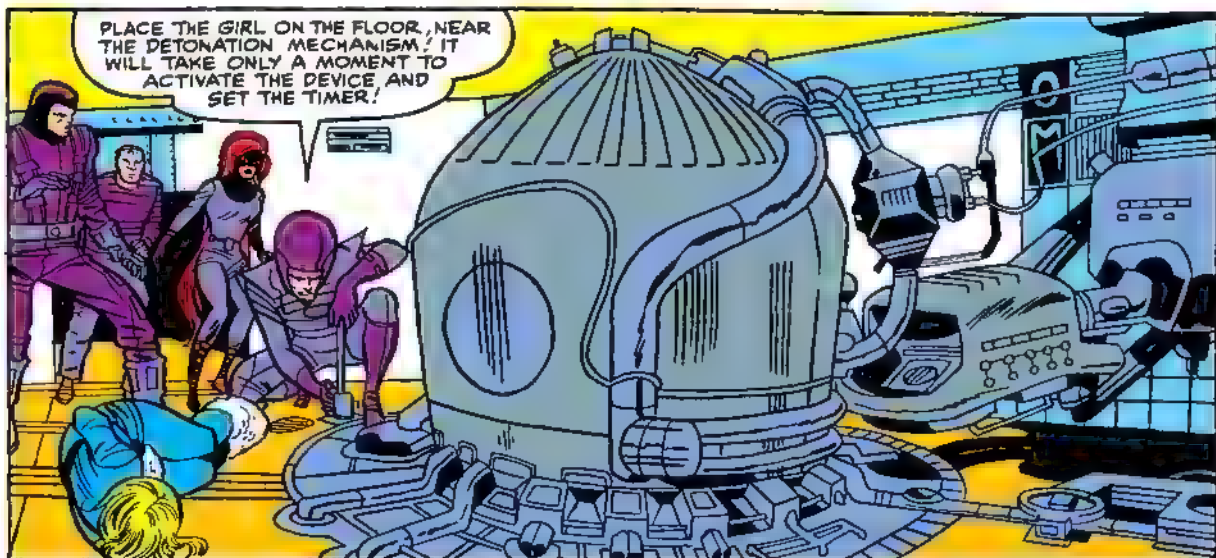
AND THERE, IN THE NEXT AMAZING
INSTANT, THE ARCH-VILLAIN
KNOWN AS THE *WINGLESS
WIZARD*, GIVES AN EXHIBITION
OF HIS AWESOME MASTERY OVER
THE FORCE OF GRAVITY, SUCH AS
NO HUMAN EYES HAVE EVER
BEHELD BEFORE... OR ARE LIKELY
TO EVER WITNESS AGAIN!











AND, BACK AT THE BAXTER BUILDING, REED, BEN, AND JOHNNY STILL KEEP THE DESPERATE VIGIL ...!

YA BETTER GET SOME SHUT-EYE, REED! I'LL WATCH THOSE DIALS AND GIZMOS FOR YA FOR A WHILE!

NO, BEN! I DARE NOT SHUT MY EYES WHILE SUE IS STILL IN DANGER! I CAN'T!

BUT, YOU AND JOHNNY BETTER TAKE A BREAK! I'LL ...

HEY! HOLD IT, CHUM! LOOK AT YOUR RADAR SCREEN! SOMETHIN'S COMIN' IN THERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BEN! IT'S AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT... COMING IN FAST!

ITS SPEED IS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE!! IT'S COMING CLOSER... CLOSER...!!

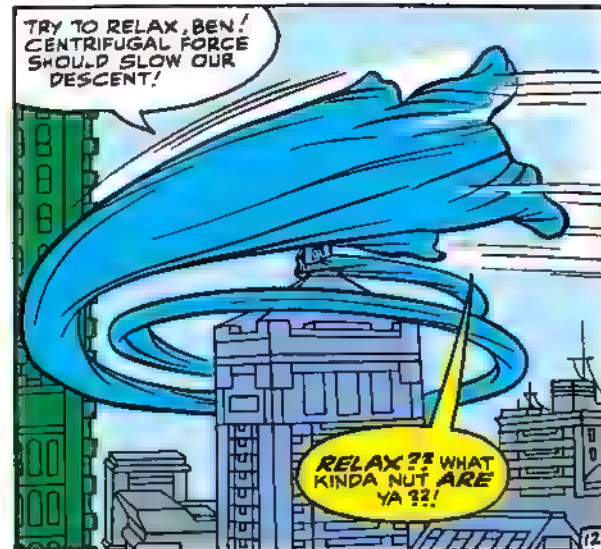
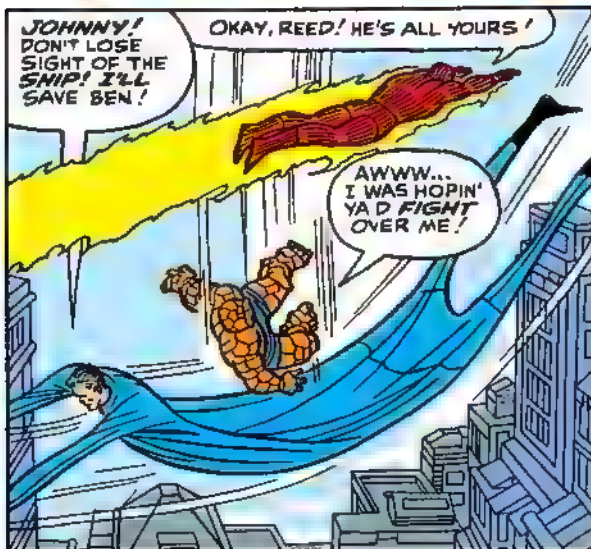
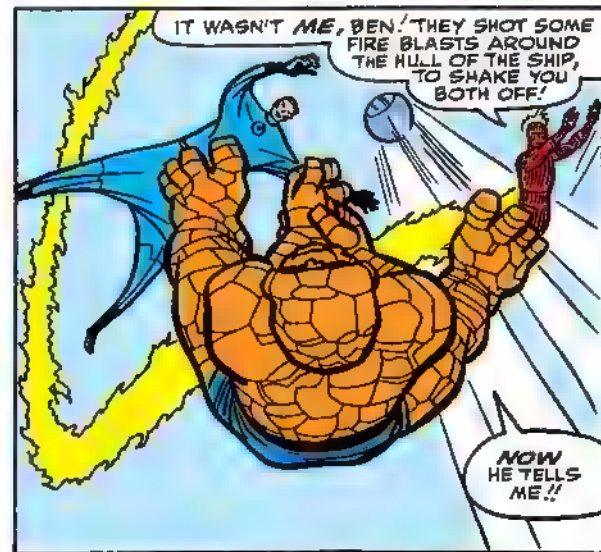
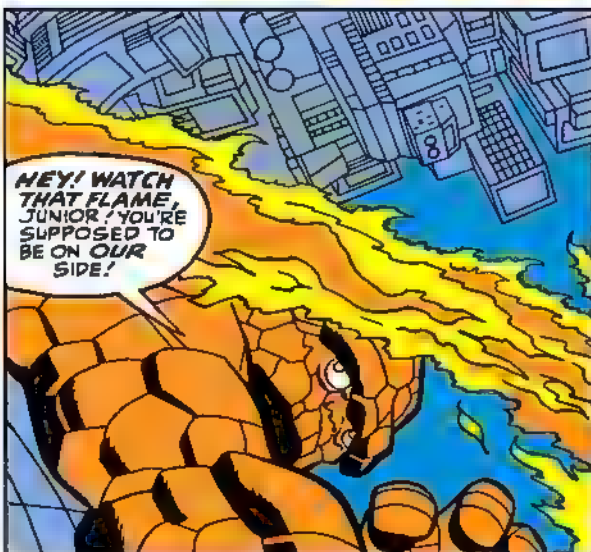
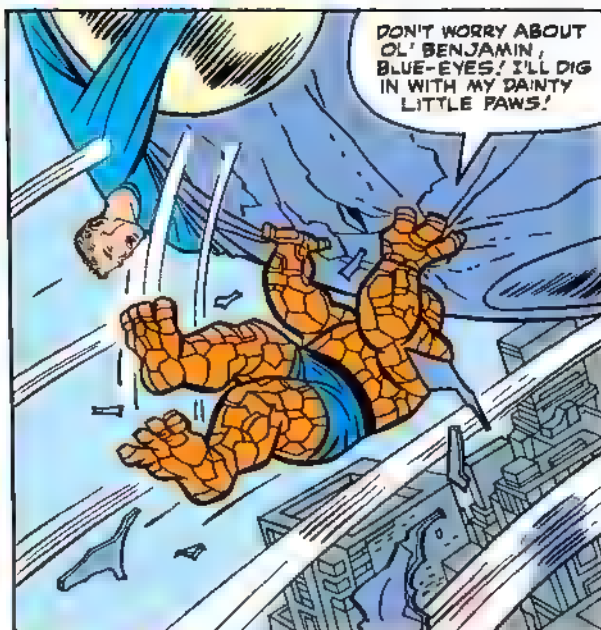
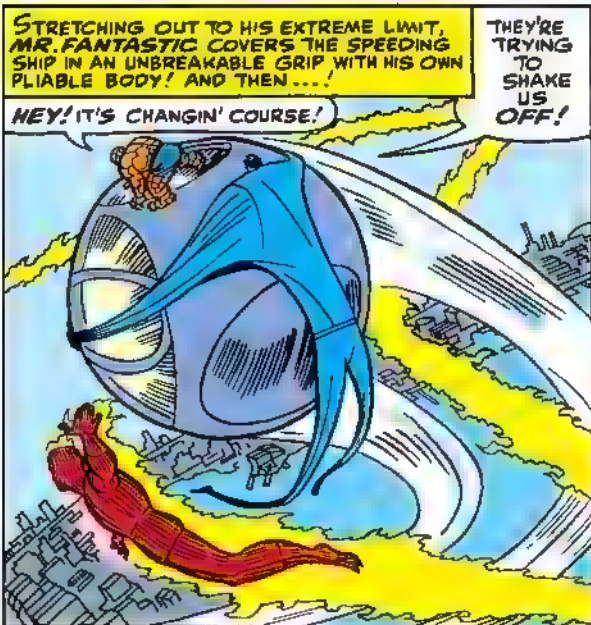
JOHNNY!! BEN!! LOOK! IT'S COMING RIGHT OVER OUR BUILDING!!

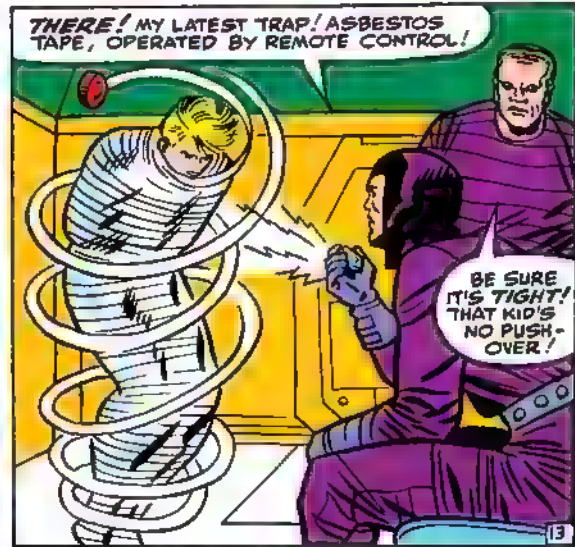
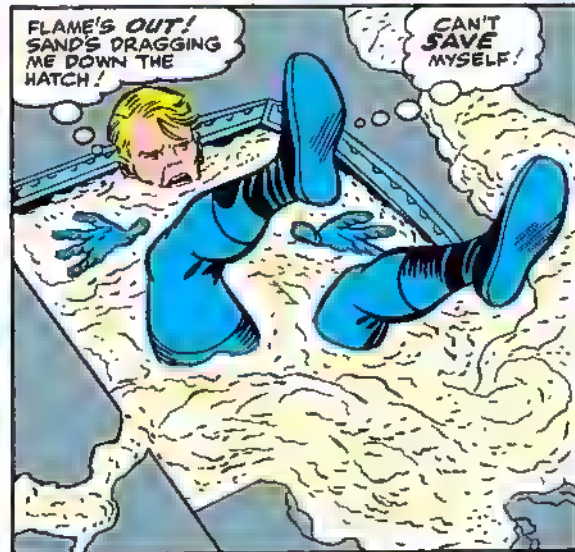
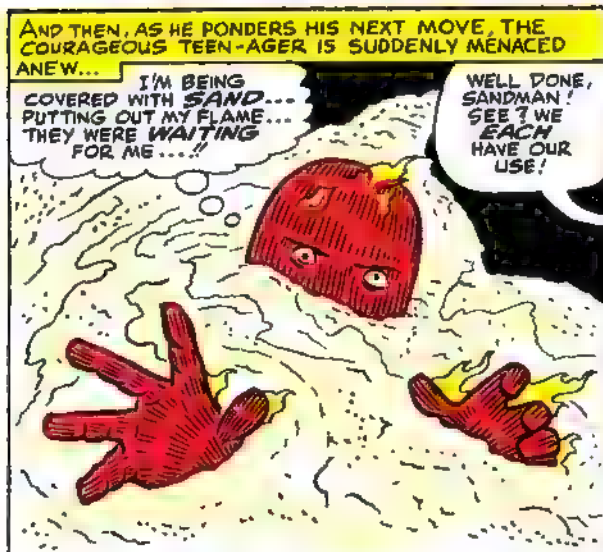
FLAME ON!

REED! WAIT! LET ME GO FIRST... IT'LL BE SAFER!

NO USE! NOBODY COULD STOP HIM NOW!

HANG ON, BEN! IT HAS TO BE THEIR SHIP! IT HAS TO!!





MEANTIME, NOT TOO FAR BEHIND, THE FAMOUS F.F. POGO PLANE TAKES OFF IN PURSUIT, WITH A FIGHTING -MAD REED RICHARDS GIVING IT FULL THROTTLE!

THERE'S NO PLACE ON EARTH THEY CAN RUN TO WHERE I WON'T FIND THEM AND MAKE THEM PAY FOR CAPTURING SUE!

AN' JUST LET ME GET MY PAWS ON ONE OF 'EM... THAT'S ALL I ASK!

YOU REALIZE, OLD FRIEND, THAT THEY ARE SURE TO BE LEADING US INTO SOME SORT OF PRE-ARRANGED TRAP!?

SURE, PAL! I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY! BUT WHATEVER THEY TOSS AT US, AIN'T GONNA BE ENOUGH!

FINALLY, AT THE SITE OF THE DEADLY ATOLL ...

WE MADE IT! NOW LAND QUICKLY! THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!

THEY'RE LANDING! THIS IS IT, BEN! WE'RE GOING AFTER THEM!

BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE POGO PLANE SET DOWN ON THE SURFACE, THAN ...

GOOD SHOT, TRAPSTER! NOW THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR THEM! THEY'RE DOOMED!

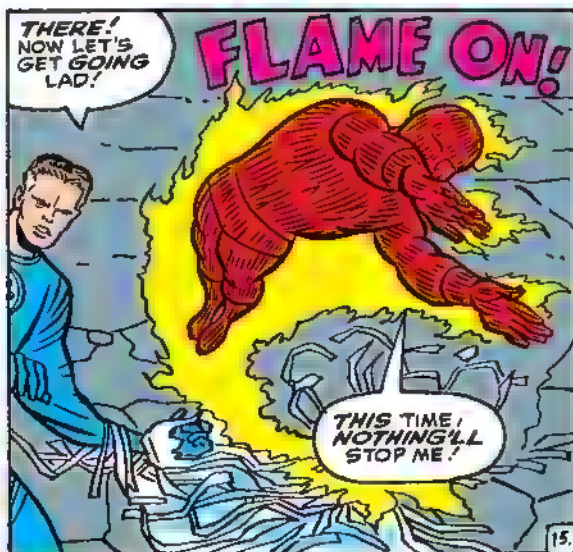
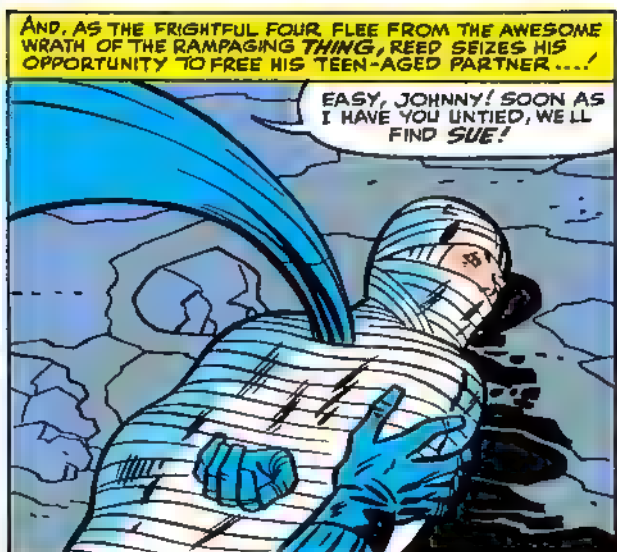
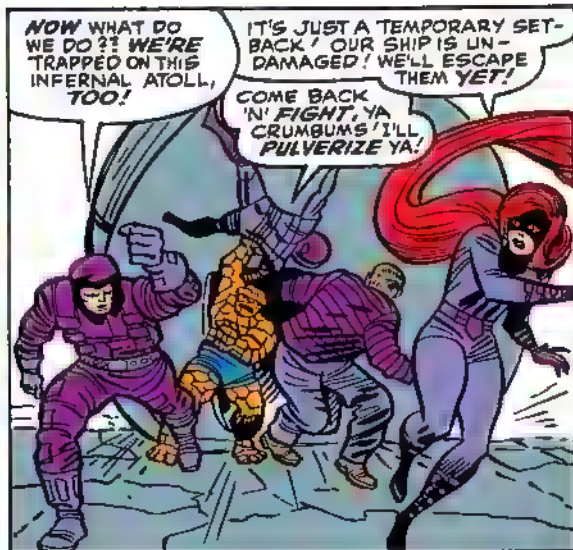
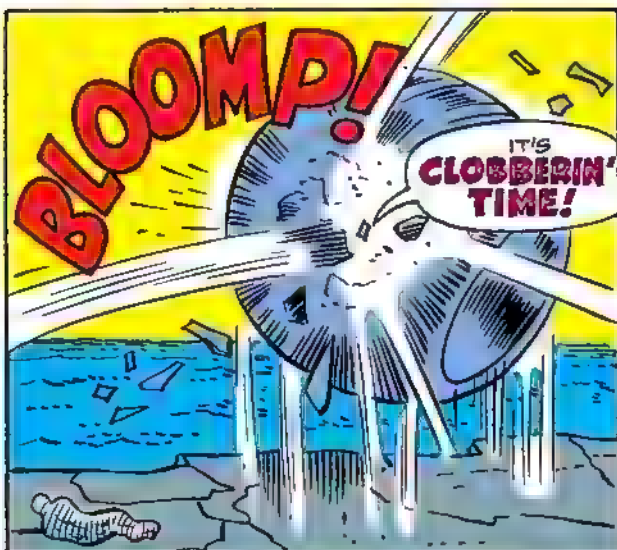
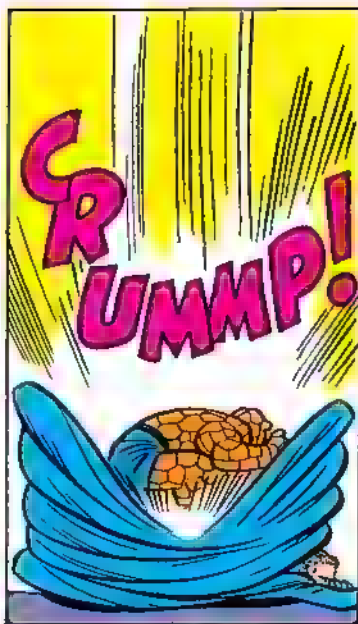
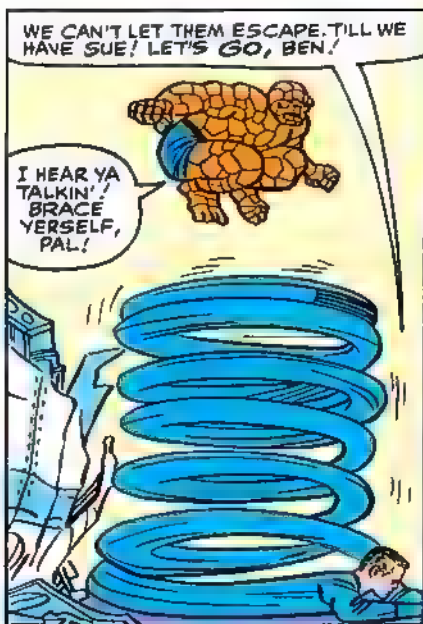
I WON'T EVEN NEED A SECOND SHOT! MY FIRST BLADE SLICED THROUGH THEIR TAIL SECTION LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER!

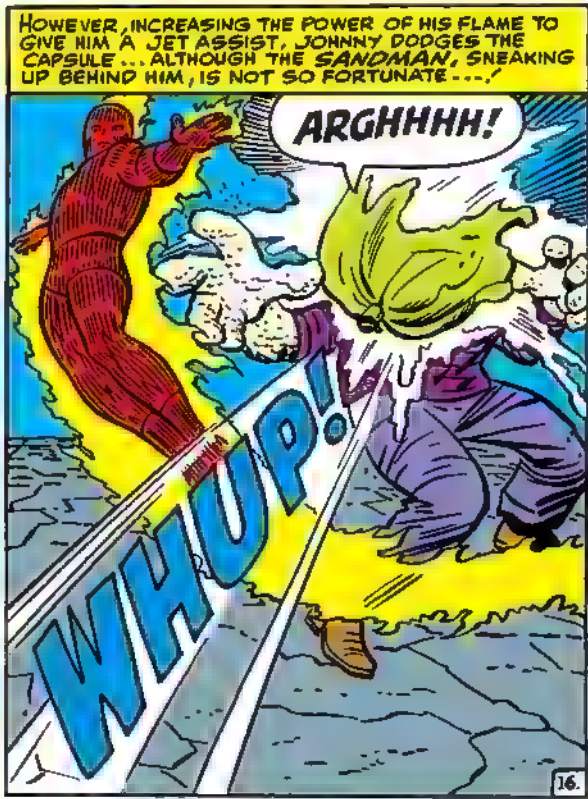
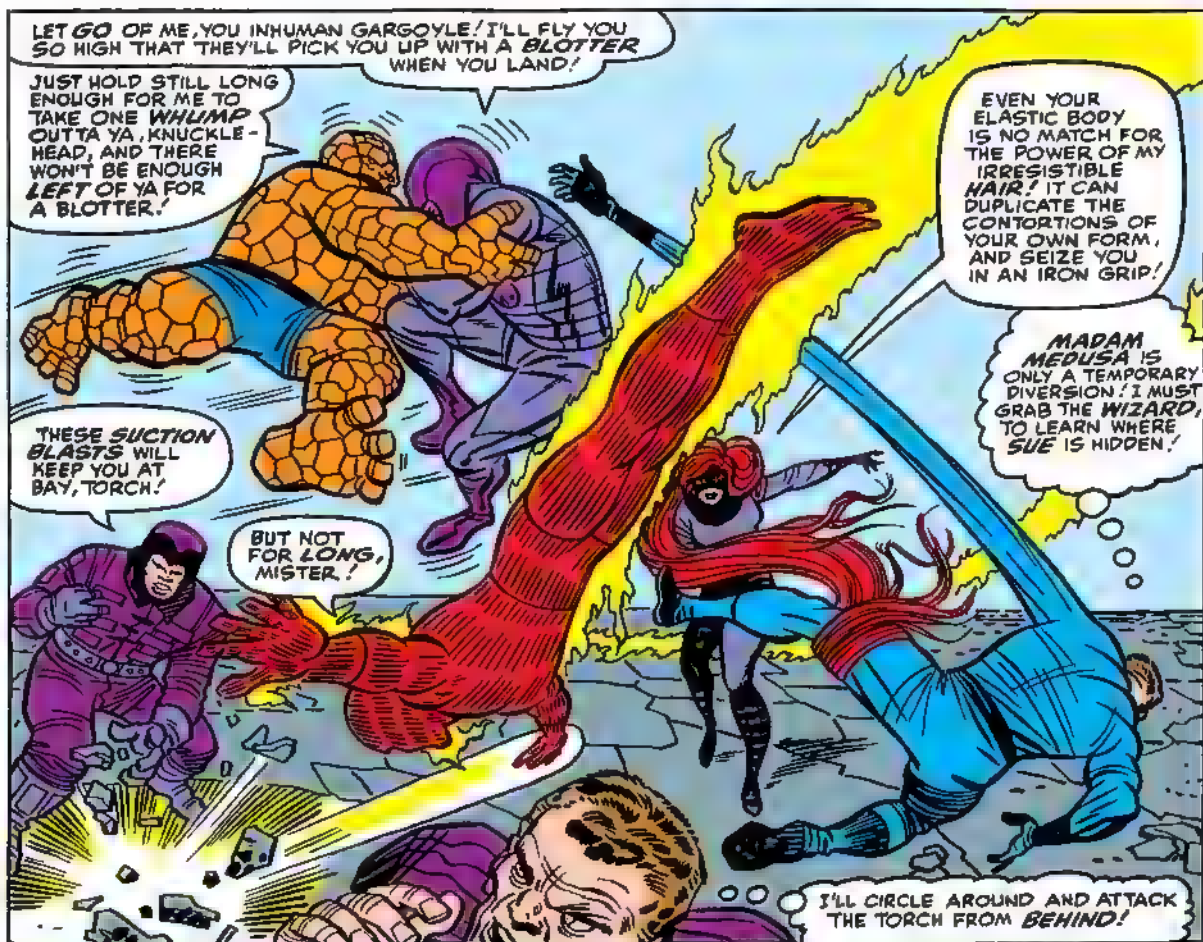
IT IS TIME FOR STEP TWO! ORDER SANDMAN TO RELEASE THE TORCH!

LOOK! THEY'RE PUSHIN' SOMEONE OUTTA THEIR SHIP! HEY... IT LOOKS LIKE JUNIOR!

BUT... WHERE'S SUE? SHE MUST STILL BE THEIR PRISONER!

THAT'S IT! NOW THEY'RE MAROONED HERE, AND WE CAN TAKE OFF!

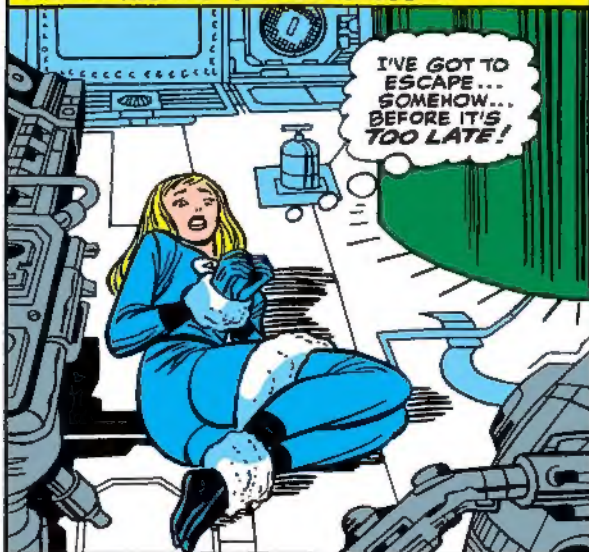




STARTLED BY THIS SUDDEN DEVELOPMENT, MADAM MEDUSA RELEASES REED, USING HER UNCANNY HAIR TO CATCH THE SANDMAN... AS HIS NOW STIFF AND IMMOBILE BODY FALLS TO THE GROUND!



AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, IN THE SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER BELOW, THE CAPTIVE SUE STORM FINALLY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...



THIS PASTE...HOLDING MY HANDS, AND MY ANKLES... I COULD NEVER PRY MYSELF LOOSE...UNLESS... I USE THE ADDED POWER OF MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!



I DID IT! I'M FREE! BUT...I STILL HAVE TO FIND MY WAY OUT OF HERE!



STILL GROGGY... FEEL FAINT... IT MUST BE THE SLEEP GAS! IT HASN'T FULLY WORN OFF YET!

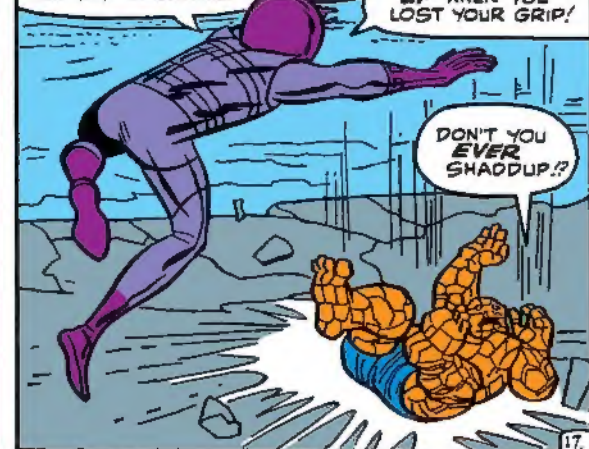
BUT... I HEAR NOISES ABOVE!! LIKE... SOUNDS OF FIGHTING! CAN IT BE...? IT IS!! I HEAR REED'S VOICE... AND BEN... AND JOHNNY!!

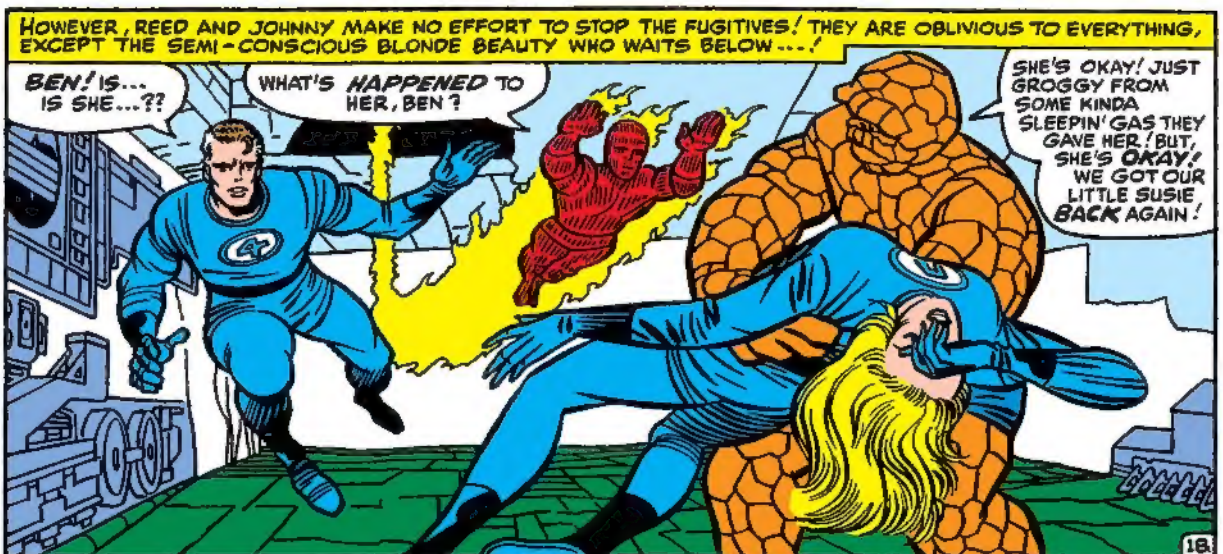
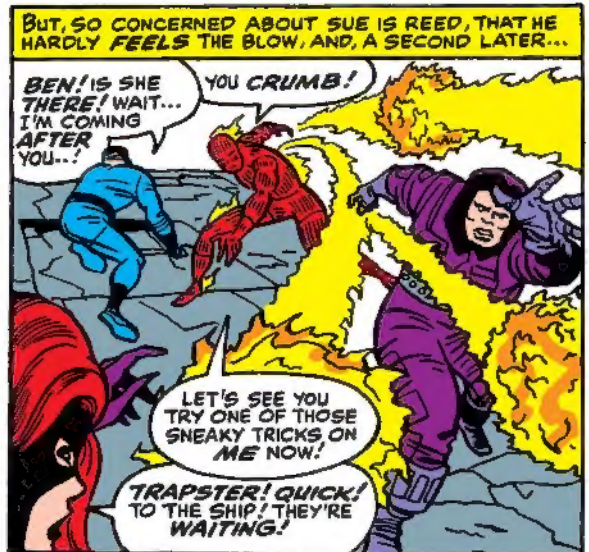
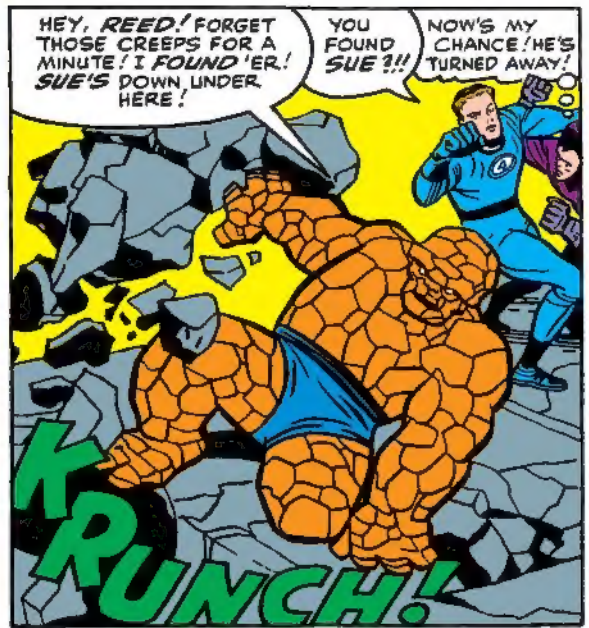


AND, DIRECTLY ABOVE THE WEAKLY STAGGERING GIRL...

HAH! BY SUDDENLY REVERSING MY ANTI-GRAV POWER, I CAUGHT YOU OFF-BALANCE!

A PITY WE WEREN'T HIGHER UP WHEN YOU LOST YOUR GRIP!







SUE, MY DEAREST...IT'S MY FAULT! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT! I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WITH YOU ALWAYS!

C'MON, SMALL FRY! LET'S POKE AROUND DOWN HERE!

SURE! ANYTHING TO GET AWAY FROM THAT LIVIN' SOAP OPERA!

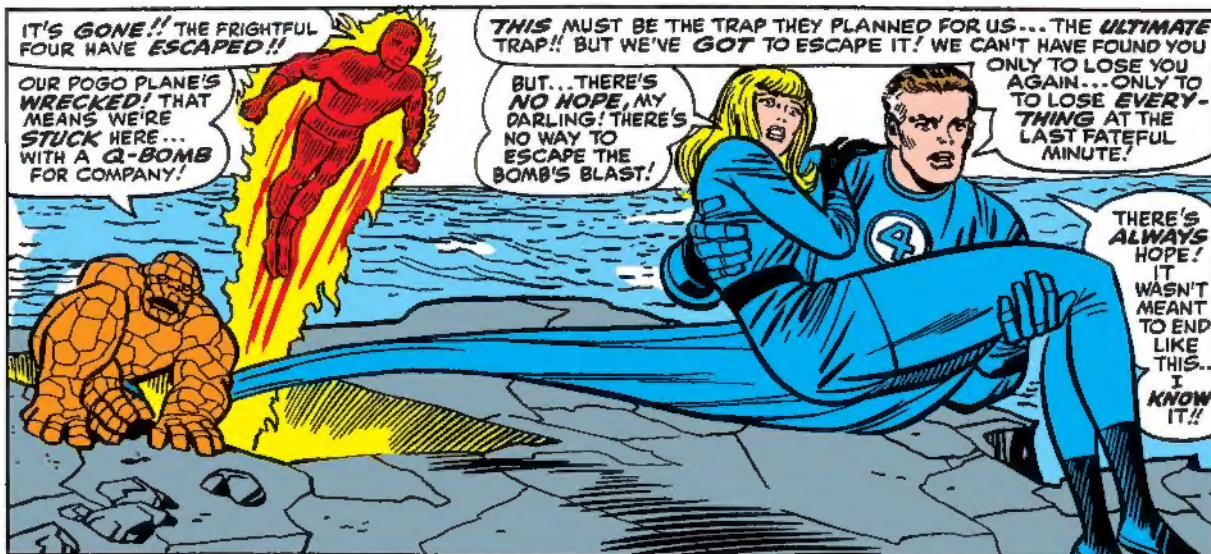
OH NO, MY DARLING...YOU MUSTN'T BLAME YOURSELF! IT WAS MY OWN CARELESSNESS! BUT WHAT DOES THAT MATTER NOW? WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN!



BUT THEN, AS BEN AND JOHNNY ENTER THE NEXT CHAMBER...

TORCH!! GIT BACK! WARN REED! THAT THERE GIZMO IS A Q-BOMB... AND IT'S BUZZIN' LIKE IT'S ACHIN' TO EXPLODE!!

WE'VE GOTTA RACE TO THE SURFACE AGAIN! THE ANTI-GRAV SHIP IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF ESCAPE!!



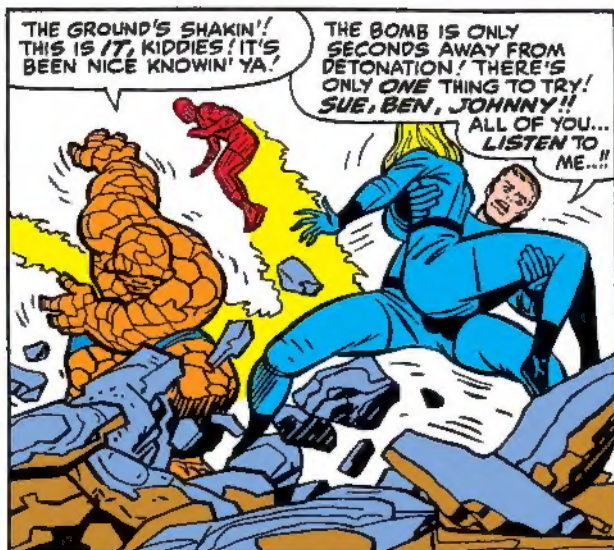
IT'S GONE!! THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR HAVE ESCAPED!!

OUR POGO PLANE'S WRECKED! THAT MEANS WE'RE STUCK HERE... WITH A Q-BOMB FOR COMPANY!

THIS MUST BE THE TRAP THEY PLANNED FOR US... THE ULTIMATE TRAP!! BUT WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE IT! WE CAN'T HAVE FOUND YOU ONLY TO LOSE YOU AGAIN... ONLY TO LOSE EVERYTHING AT THE LAST FATEFUL MINUTE!

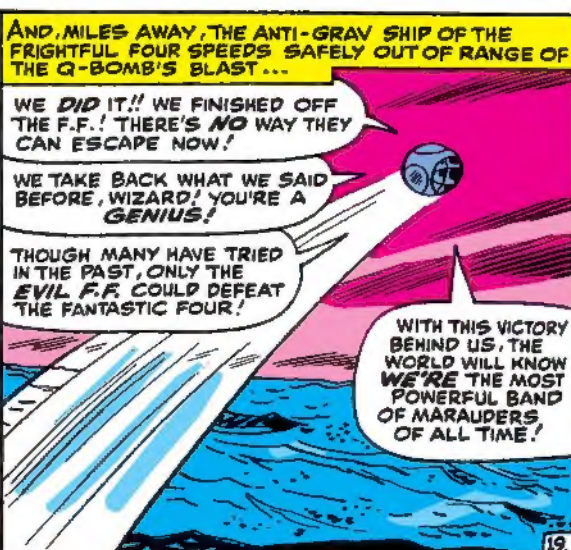
BUT...THERE'S NO HOPE, MY DARLING! THERE'S NO WAY TO ESCAPE THE BOMB'S BLAST!

THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE! IT WASN'T MEANT TO END LIKE THIS... I KNOW IT!!



THE GROUND'S SHAKIN'! THIS IS IT, KIDDIES! IT'S BEEN NICE KNOWIN' YA!

THE BOMB IS ONLY SECONDS AWAY FROM DETONATION! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO TRY! SUE, BEN, JOHNNY!! ALL OF YOU... LISTEN TO ME...!!



AND, MILES AWAY, THE ANTI-GRAV SHIP OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR SPEEDS SAFELY OUT OF RANGE OF THE Q-BOMB'S BLAST...

WE DID IT!! WE FINISHED OFF THE F.F.! THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN ESCAPE NOW!

WE TAKE BACK WHAT WE SAID BEFORE, WIZARD! YOU'RE A GENIUS!

THOUGH MANY HAVE TRIED IN THE PAST, ONLY THE EVIL F.F. COULD DEFEAT THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

WITH THIS VICTORY BEHIND US, THE WORLD WILL KNOW WE'RE THE MOST POWERFUL BAND OF MARAUDERS OF ALL TIME!

